

Paula J. Randall-Pagan



SFC Theresa E. DeWitt of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit gives pistol marksmanship tips to Delayed Entry Program member Jameelah Logan at Camp Perry, Ohio.

Fort Benning, Ga.

Marksmanship as a Recruiting Tool

SOLDIERS in the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit are usually known for their ability to bring home gold medals for the Army in shooting competitions. However, the world-class shooters have been helping the Army with a different mission.

During the recent National Pistol Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, several team members took time away from the firing range to support the Army's Toledo, Ohio, Recruiting Company by using the Army Shooting Adventure Package van to provide marksmanship training to more than 40 Delayed Entry Program members.

SFC Steven V. Pullins, USAMU Recruiting Command liaison, said the ASAP van is the unit's premier recruiting tool.

The "van" is actually a 28-foot-long trailer pulled by a commercial truck, both of which are adorned with eye-catching Army graphics. And although the ASAP showcases the Army's best shooters, members of the public can also test their skills by shooting at targets using specially modified pistols or rifles.

The ASAP van is essentially a mobile shooting arcade that provides a safe venue for USAMU members and prospective recruits to interact in a fun environment, Pullins said.

CPT Michael C. Wise, commander of the Toledo Recruiting Co., said the Delayed Entry Program members really enjoyed the event, and that several of them seemed very interested in getting more marksmanship training.

"The marksmanship team showed them something new and different that we can't pro-

vide," he said. "I would definitely recommend that other recruiting stations use the ASAP van. It's a great way to familiarize recruits with the Army's weapons in a safe, fun and challenging way."

Earlier this year, Georgia recruiters brought more than 35 DEP members to meet the team at its home station at Fort Benning and use the ASAP.

"They really loved it," said SFC Kelly Price, a recruiting station commander. "They said they couldn't wait to fire real weapons and felt that this training would help them in marksmanship in Basic Combat Training."

Pullins said USAMU's recruiting-assistance events help recruiters expand their markets and reinforce the contacts they've already made. — *Paula J. Randall-Pagan, USAMU Public Affairs Office*

Fort Hood, Texas

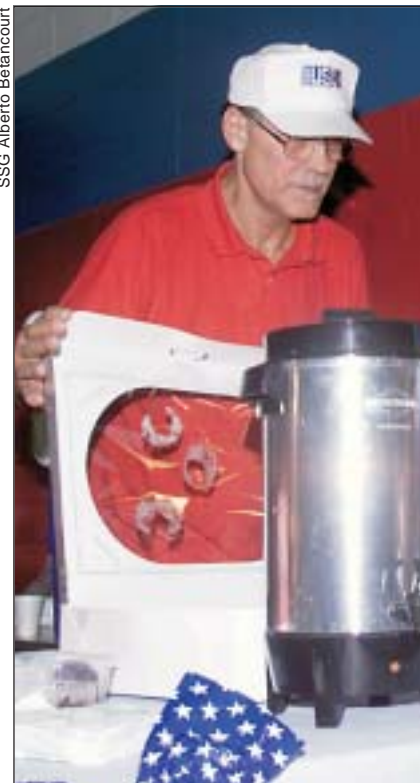
Hood's USO Supports Troops

SINCE 1941 the USO has been supporting U.S. troops by entertaining them while they're deployed, or by providing a "home-away-from-home" feeling at one of hundreds of USO hospitality centers worldwide.

The recent opening of a USO facility at Fort Hood, Texas, marks the beginning of a new era for the organization, which typically has placed its facilities in civilian airports.

"Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on our country, hundreds of troops have deployed from Fort Hood," said Dan Green, president of the installation's USO and a civilian aide to the secretary of the Army. "It was important to create a support element for

SSG Alberto Betancourt



them. Now, we're the only USO on a military installation."

With only one paid employee, the Fort Hood USO depends on community volunteers for support.

"This is an opportunity for our community to show its support for the troops and their families," Green said.

Rich Ross, director of Fort Hood's USO, said it's been pretty busy, but everyone has lent a hand.

"Whether they're serving hot dogs during the day or doughnuts in the early morning, community volunteers have really reached out and supported us," Ross said.

"We're here to help in any way we can," said Green. "Fort Hood is our community, and anyone coming through here will receive a hearty welcome or a warm good-bye." — *Ssg Alberto Betancourt*



An 82nd Airborne Division paratrooper receives Ecuadorian jump wings during a wings-exchange ceremony following the coalition jump.

Fort Bragg, N.C.

Coalition Jump at Fort Bragg

THE motivating yell "commando" echoed through the sky above Fort Bragg, N.C., as Ecuadorian special forces soldiers leaped from a U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft onto Sicily Drop Zone during a recent airborne coalition exercise with 82nd Airborne Division troops.

The exercise was part of the Small Unit Familiarization Program, which is geared toward establishing coalition-training events between the Army and Latin American countries.

"The program promotes an understanding between foreign troops," said 2LT Todd Willert, scout platoon leader in the 3rd Battalion, 325th Infantry Regiment. "We can exchange tactics, so if we ever have to fight together we can integrate more easily."

The training program, which takes place during the

Dean Burkett, a USO volunteer, offers doughnuts to Fort Hood family members who were saying good-bye to deploying soldiers.

second quarter of each fiscal year, allows Latin American forces to train with soldiers in the United States and U.S. soldiers to train in Latin America.

Willert said that besides two airborne operations, the soldiers honed their skills in troop movement and link-up operations, and completed obstacle courses and weapons familiarization.

Although the Ecuadorian soldiers participate in similar training events at home, they cited many differences in the way they trained with the Americans, said Ecuadorian Lt. Wilson Sanchez.

"We train in a jungle environment," he said. "We prepare ourselves to fight in guerilla fashion with an enemy who is not very organized."

He also said they jump out of smaller aircraft and with fewer people than Americans do, and primarily perform free-fall jumps, which is jumping from higher altitudes with no static lines hooked up to the aircraft.

"The fact that each army trains differently is the best part of this exercise," said SSG William J. Colon of Company C, 3rd Bn., 325th Inf. "We learn

a lot about each other, which builds confidence on both sides that we can successfully fight together."

Soldiers on both sides said they look forward to training together again.

"We appreciate the United States giving us this opportunity to train with them," said Sanchez. "And we look forward to American soldiers visiting us so we can share some of our training with them." — *PFC Heather Boyne, 82nd Abn. Div. PAO*

PFC Heather Boyne



1SG Raymond Cabacar of HHC, 3rd Bn., 325th Inf., watches Sgt. 2nd Class Juan C. Huerta of the Ecuadorian army jump from a 34-foot tower at Fort Bragg.